

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SURPLUS PROPERTY



Senator Dave Cogdill, Chair

Senate Surplus Property Committee Examines Ways to Improve Surplus Land Management

(February 4, 2010) -- To ensure California taxpayers get the most value from state-owned land assets, the Senate Committee today examined how to streamline the current surplus property disposal process and discussed the progress of implementing legislation to eliminate obstacles state agencies face when selling surplus properties.

“Over the past several years, a lot of attention has been given to proposals to generate revenue by selling surplus and other high-value assets. Unfortunately, lots of talk has been backed up by little action,” said Senator Dave Cogdill (R-Modesto), chair of the Committee.

Last year, the Legislature approved [Assembly Bill X4 22](#), which authorized the Department of General Services (DGS) to lease out and sell various state properties and it required state agencies to provide more detail in the reporting of their real property holdings, including current uses, future uses and surplus properties.

The Senate Governmental Organization Committee last year held a hearing about the changes the state has made in handling excess land assets. At that time, the State Auditor [updated a report issued in 2001](#) and found the state made incremental progress, but fundamental concerns still need to be addressed.

“Today’s hearing only hits the tip of the iceberg and there’s much work that lies ahead to make our real property assets more profitable for taxpayers,” said Senator Cogdill.

Witnesses testifying today included Elaine Howle, State Auditor; Laura Zuniga, State and Consumer Services Agency, deputy secretary of legislation; Melanie Perron, Department of General Services, legislative coordinator; and Mark Whitaker, Legislative Analyst’s Office, fiscal and policy analyst.

The Committee will use the information gathered at today’s hearing, and future hearings, as a basis for meaningful legislation that will result in a more efficient process for handling surplus properties.

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